

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~manufacturing method of for manufacturing a~~ magnetic head ~~formed with having~~ a pair of magnetic core halves fitted to ~~abut on each other~~ having together in abutting relationship with a nonmagnetic gap therebetween and having a slide contact plane for slide contact with a magnetic recording medium ~~on which an end face of the nonmagnetic gap and the magnetic core halves,~~ said method comprising the steps of:

forming said magnetic core halves;

bonding said magnetic core halves together in abutting relationship with a non-magnetic gap provided at facing end faces of said magnetic core halves;

forming a groove at an end portion of the slide contact plane ~~outer other~~ than the end face faces of the magnetic core halves on the slide contact plane; and

forming a nonmagnetic portion by filling ~~a glass material into~~ the groove with a non-magnetic glass material.

8. (Original) The manufacturing method of a magnetic head according to Claim 8, wherein a surface roughness of a side plane of the groove is 50nm or less.

9. (New) A method of manufacturing magnetic heads, comprising:

forming a pair of magnetic core half blocks having track width regulating grooves formed over mating surfaces thereof;

depositing a metal magnetic thin film on the group of track width regulating grooves;

bonding the magnetic core half blocks in abutting relationship with said mating surfaces facing each other while having the metal magnetic thin film 3 sandwiched therebetween at end faces of the abutting core half blocks, the thus bonded magnetic core half blocks forming a single block extending in a longitudinal direction and with a target surface, said target surface being finished in a later step to be a slide contact plane for slide contact against a recording medium;

forming a pair of grooves along said target surface, each groove extending longitudinally along the single block and positioned between the thin metal magnetic film and an outer lateral edge of the single block;

filling the grooves with a non-magnetic glass material; and
cutting individual magnetic heads from said single block to produce a magnetic head with a slide contact plane having end portions comprising non-magnetic material.

10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein said magnetic core half blocks are made of a ferrite material.

11. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein said target surface is finished to have a surface roughness Ra of 50 nm or less.